Night

Silently sleeps the river.

The dark pines hold their peace.

The nightingale does not sing,

Or the corncrake screech.

Night. Silence enfolds.

Only the brook murmurs,

And the brilliant moon turns

Everything to silver.

Silver the river,

And the rivulets.

Silver the grass

Of the fertile steppes.

Night. Silence enfolds.

All sleeps in Nature

And the brilliant moon

Turns everything to silver.

Sergei Esenin

**Night**

1. What do 'Silently sleeps the river', 'Silence enfolds' and 'brilliant moon' tell you about the poet's attitude to night time?

2. What do you think are the 'fertile steppes'?

(You will need to look in the dictionary for both of these words.)

3. What effect does the moonlight have on the landscape?

4. Which of the two poems on night do you prefer? Give your reasons.